Nethersia pugna, new species

Moderately large, stout, with prominent markings. Head brown, with four short, slender, testaceous spines, the median wanting, the posterior pair sometimes adpressed. Eyes rather large, black. Antennae moderately long, the tip of last segment black; segments I and II short, the latter shorter and slenderer; III slenderest, a little more than twice as long as IV. Bucculae reticulate, closed in front. Rostral channel very wide on meso-metasternum, open behind; the rostrum extending to middle of mesosternum. Legs rather stout, short, brown, beset with long setae.

Pronotum strongly convex, closely punctate, tricarinate; lateral carinae faintly convex within in front, without areolae, fuscous, testaceous, each dark fuscous on tumid area; median carina testaceous, with dark fuscous spot on disc and another near apex, there slightly thickened, slightly more raised and indistinctly areolate in front and behind; collar distinct, finely areolate, truncate in front; pronota very narrow, carina-like, a little wider and areolate in front. Elytra testaceous, with a broad, transverse band at middle (expanded in discoidal area) and apical portion reddish brown to fuscous; subcostal area biseriate; discoidal area large, narrowed at base and apex, widest a little beyond middle, there six areolae deep; costal area wanting.

Length, 2.75 mm.; width, 1.05 mm.

Type, female, Roma, Queensland, Austr., Nov. 30, 1930, L. Franzer. Two examples from National Park and 1 from Stanthorpe, Queensland appear to belong to this species.

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF COLEOPTERA FROM PANAMA

By M. W. Blackman [1]

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During the last 73 years several genera of beetles have been described which have been the subjects of considerable discussion and differences of opinion regarding their relationships to one another and to such established groups as the Scolytidae, Platypodidae, and Cossoninae. The genera in question are *Coptonotus* Chapuis (1869) from Colombia, *Chapuisia* Dugès (1885) from Mexico, *Craniodicticus* Blandford (1895) from Ceylon, *Notoplatypus* Lea (1910) from Australia, *Platytarsulus* Schedl (1935) from the Malay States, and *Scolytotarsus* Schedl

[1] Dr. Blackman died on October 12, 1943. His manuscript, describing this genus and species, and the drawings, were completed before his death and are published without alteration.

(1937) from Africa. In this paper still another genus of somewhat similar and also doubtful affinities is described. This I am naming *Mecopelmus*, new genus, with *M. zeteki*, new species, from Panama, its genotype.

It is not my purpose to enter into a thorough discussion of this complex of genera. To me such action in the present state of our knowledge would seem rather futile. We dare to say only that all these genera lie rather near the Platypodidae and the Scolytidae, some of them showing certain similarities to the Cossoninae. Each genus is represented by a single species, and each of five of the six described genera is known from only a single continent, the sixth occurring on Ceylon adjacent to southern Asia. As would be expected, the similarities of structure among genera arising in such diverse and widely separated areas as isolated localities in Africa, southern Asia, Australia, and Central America are more in the nature of general resemblances than more detailed similarities. Or, if certain structures, such as those of the legs, do show similarities which are usually considered significant, other structures, as the antenna for instance, may be so radically different as to negate any idea of a close relationship.

Even the three genera that occur in the Western Hemisphere, in Mexico, Panama, and Colombia, appear to be no more closely related to one another than they are individually to forms from the Eastern Hemisphere. Indeed, the genus described herein seems to be more closely allied to *Notoplatypus* Lea from Australia and *Platytarsulus* Schedl from Malaysia in antennal and tarsal structures than it is to *Chapuisia* Dugès or *Coptonotus* Chapuis. In other respects, however, such as in the shape of the head, the shape and positions of the eyes, the broadly separated fore coxae, etc., there is little similarity to any of the other genera mentioned. The similarities between *Mecopelmus* and certain of the Platypodidae such as *Periomatus* Chapuis seem rather close if we consider only the shape of the head and the structure of the fore tarsus, but in other respects the differences are striking. It seems, then, rather hopeless to assign *Mecopelmus* to a definite place in the scheme of classification.

As an example of the differences of opinion regarding the disposal of one of these genera of doubtful position, I might cite the case of one of the best known. *Chapuisia* was placed by its describer, Dugès (1885), in the family Scolytidae. Blandford (1896) divided the Platypodinae of Central America into two groups, the Platopodides and the Chapuisiides, the latter containing only the single species *Chapuisia mexicana* Dugès. Strohmeyer (1914) elevated the group containing only the single species to full family rank, under the name Chapuisiidae, coordinate with the Platypodidae. Hopkins (1915) placed *Chapuisia* as the single representative of the subfamily Chapuisiinae of

the family Platypodidae. Schedl (1939) grouped the three genera *Coptonotus*, *Scolytotarsus*, and *Chapuisia* into the family Coptonotidae, placing the last genus as the subfamily Chapuisinae (sic).

With authorities on the group differing so markedly in their conclusions as to the position of the same species in the scheme of classification, it would seem wise to postpone the placing of these genera until we know considerably more of their structure and mode of life, and until further collecting has brought to light other forms, as yet unknown, which may make clearer the real relationships. At present, aside from avoiding the issue as I have done, we have two alternatives, either to broaden our conceptions of the family Scolytidae and the family Platypodidae so that each will include certain of the genera of doubtful position, as has been done by Blandford, Hopkins, and Hagedorn, or to create several new families and subfamilies, as proposed by Schedl.

MECOPELMUS, new genus

General appearance as seen from above (fig. 5) similar to that of *Coptonotus* Chapuis, but much smaller. Head (figs. 3, 4) exserted, globose; eyes large, antenna with unsegmented club and 3-segmented funicle; pronotum much wider behind, constricted and excavated at sides; fore coxae very widely separated, tarsi similar to those of *Platypus* etc.; elytra punctate striate.

Genotype, *Mecopelmus zeteki*, new species, described herein.

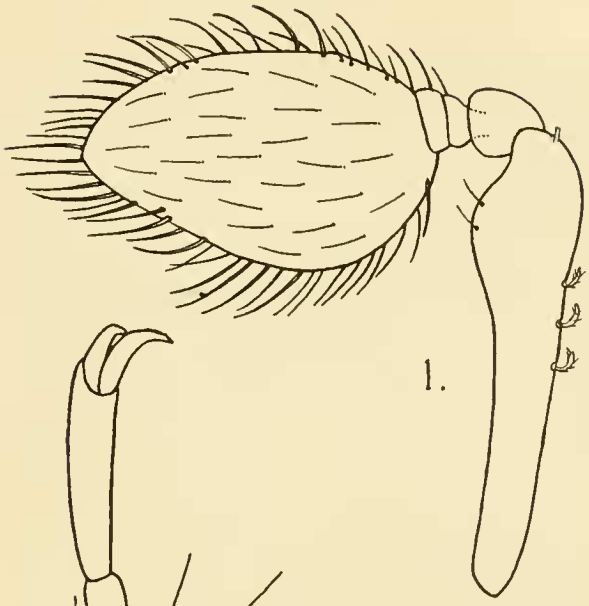
Mecopelmus zeteki, new species

Reddish brown, 1.53 mm. long, 3.14 times as long as wide; with pronotum excavated at sides as in *Coptonotus cyclopus* Chapuis and having a general resemblance to that species, but much smaller and very different in structural details.

Head with contour evenly arcuate from occiput to epistomal margin; eyes (figs. 3, 4) narrowly separated above, large, very broad oval (subcircular), not emarginate, facets coarse; frons narrow above between eyes, feebly reticulate, median line feebly sulcate, with a faint, triangular impression below between bases of antennae and mandibles; antennal scape (fig. 1) moderately slender, club-shaped, as long as club and funicle together, funicle short, pedicel as long as other two segments combined, club flattened, ovate, about 1.66 times as long as wide, with distal end subacuminate, and with no trace of sutures.

Pronotum 1.06 times as long as wide, widest in posterior fourth, much narrower anteriorly (24:34), posterior outline arcuate, not margined; sides strongly excavated (constricted) in anterior three-fourths, anterior outline weakly arcuate; surface moderately shining, distinctly, regularly, finely reticulate, with fine, shallow, rather sparse punctures bearing extremely minute hairs on most of

Mecopelmus zeteki. 1, antenna; 2, tibia; 2a, tarsus; 3, front view of head; 4, lateral view of head and pronotum; 5, dorsal view of body. All drawings by Mrs. Mary F. Benson.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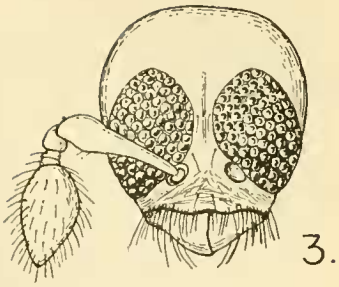
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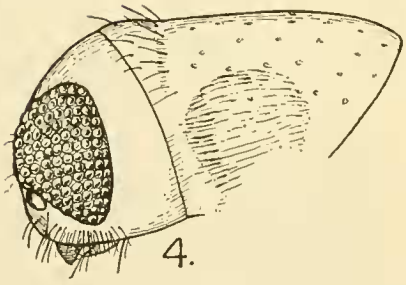
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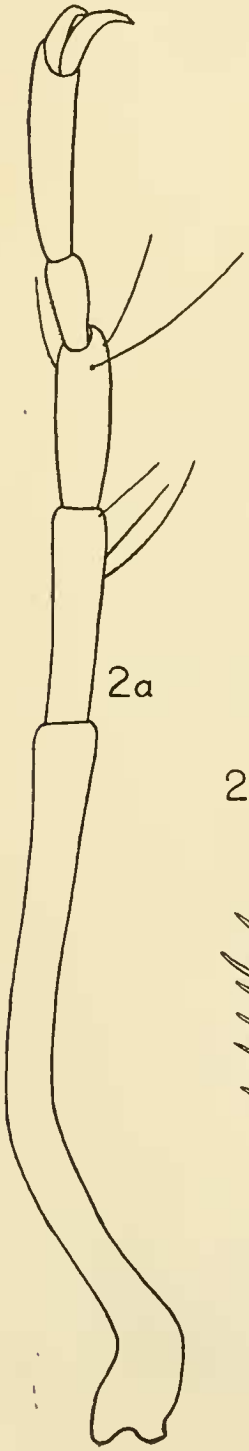
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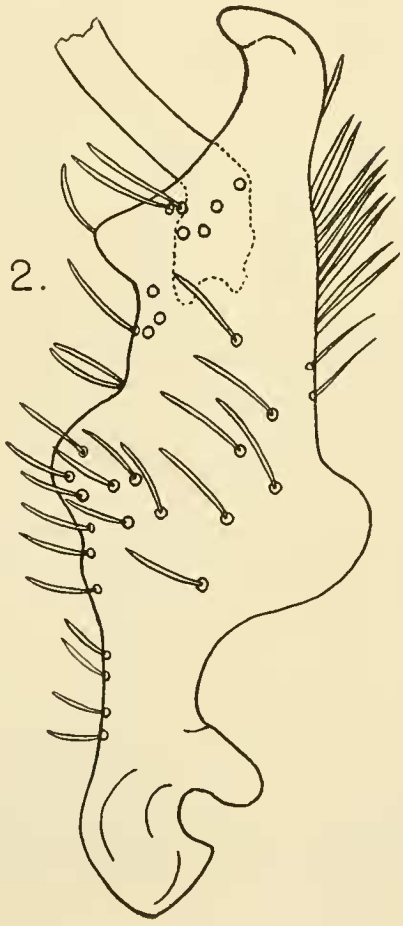
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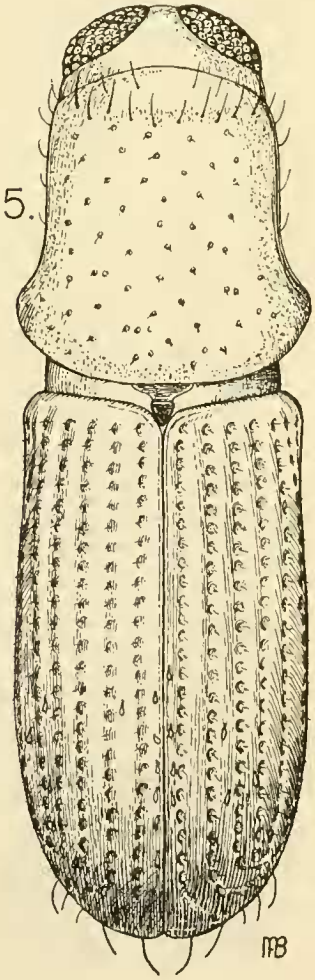
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disk, punctures near anterior margin somewhat larger and deeper and bearing larger hairs. Tibia (fig. 2) with large, curved, terminal mucro, outer edge with two large, blunt serrations; tarsus (fig. 2a) very long, 1.5 times as long as tibia, very slender, segments nearly uniformly cylindrical, first segment nearly as long as other four combined.

Elytra very slightly narrower than pronotum and 1.67 times as long, 1.90 times as long as wide; bases nearly straight, sides subparallel on anterior three-fifths, then gradually narrowed, with end extreme and rather broadly rounded; surface shining, striae weakly but distinctly impressed, with punctures rather fine and close, with minute, inconspicuous hairs; interspaces convex, wider than striae, finely, distinctly reticulate, with very few, fine punctures, subglabrous on disk and sides. Declivity sloping; striae as on disk; interspaces with small, sparse, shallow punctures; hairs scanty, rather short, spatulate.

Type locality.—Barro Colorado Island, Panama Canal Zone.
Host.—Unknown.
Type material.—Holotype, United States National Museum No. 56775.

The new genus and the new species are described from a single specimen taken at light June 20, 1941, by James Zetek.

MINUTES OF THE 542D REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON JANUARY 6, 1944

The 542d regular meeting of the Society was held at 8 P. M., Thursday, January 6, 1944, in Room 43 of the National Museum. President Annand presided and 38 members and 14 visitors were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

President Annand announced that the Treasurer's Report had been audited by the Committee appointed and approved. The following Committees have been appointed:

Membership—M. P. Jones, L. J. Bottimer, C. M. Packard.
Program—L. D. Reed, E. H. Siegler, H. K. Townes.

The regular program continued with a group of papers on the Columbus meetings:

1) Dr. F. C. Bishopp—*Report on program on Medical Entomology in Wartime.*—The program was divided into two parts, one group dealing with the role of medical entomology and the other with chemical control of the insects involved. Among several outstanding speakers from the Army Medical Corps who appeared on the program in the first group were Major O. R. McCoy who discussed the general and historical importance of insects in medical corps work,